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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa from July 2012 to June 2013.

During the reporting period, the Centre continued its assistance, upon request, to Member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote peace, security and disarmament.

In the light of the continued instability and conflicts in Africa, particularly in Central and West Africa, which is compounded by the threat to peace, security and socioeconomic development posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the Centre focused its work on providing assistance to States to combat the illicit proliferation of such weapons and to reform their security sector. The Centre supported Member States in their implementation of regional and subregional instruments aimed at combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central, East and West Africa, and provided training to defence and security forces, including on small arms. The Centre also partnered with the African Union and the International Action Network on Small Arms in assisting African States in their preparation for the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty.

Within its peace and security mandate, the Centre assisted defence and security forces in Africa in developing effective, inclusive and accountable security institutions by providing training on the principles of the use of force and firearms, in particular during elections.

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The Centre continued to provide substantive and technical support related to disarmament issues to the meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in particular at the thirty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Brazzaville, in December 2012.

The Centre continued to enhance its capacity in the fields of disarmament, peace and security. Despite its recognized expertise in these areas and the increasing requests from African countries for assistance, the mobilization of financial resources that the Centre requires to implement its projects in response to those requests remains a major challenge.

The Centre relies solely on voluntary contributions to implement its programmes and the Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those Member States and other partners who supported the Centre's operations and programmes with financial contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/69, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the tangible achievements and impact of the assistance provided by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and welcomed its contribution to continental disarmament, peace and security.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers the activities of the Centre for the period from July 2012 to June 2013. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Regional Centre is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Functioning and mandate of the Regional Centre

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was established in 1986 in Lomé, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. The Centre functions on the basis of existing resources within the Secretariat and of voluntary contributions that Member States and other donors may offer.

4. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to implement its programme of work in the following main areas: peace and security; conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons; weapons of mass destruction; information and outreach; and cooperation and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and other entities.

III. Objectives and activities

5. The Centre provides assistance, upon request, to Member States, the African Union and other relevant intergovernmental organizations in the promotion of disarmament, peace and security in Africa. It also works in partnership with academic and research institutions and civil society organizations in the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities linked to disarmament, peace and security. Owing to the specific nature of security issues in Africa, the Centre has continued to place emphasis on activities linked to controlling the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and to reforming defence and security forces with the goals of reducing armed conflict and armed violence and of developing effective, inclusive and accountable security institutions. The Centre provides support to African Member States and intergovernmental organizations in those areas through capacity-building and training, technical assistance, research and information-sharing.

6. The Centre currently has four thematic programmes: peace and security, small arms and light weapons, conventional arms, and weapons of mass destruction. It also maintained its host country programme.

A. Peace and security

7. Within the peace and security programme, the Centre carried out activities to assist Member States in reforming their defence and security forces, in response to

requests received from the Government of Togo and States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

8. In response to the security situation in the Sahel region and the efforts of the Security Council to resolve the situation, in May 2013, the Centre provided technical and expert support to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre for the development of a training course on small arms and light weapons proliferation in the Sahel. The training course will be directed to 800 West African practitioners, including security sector personnel and lawmakers, from Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal and is aimed at strengthening operational-level competencies in small arms control in the subregion.

9. At the thirty-fifth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Brazzaville, in December 2012, the Centre took part in the commemoration of the Committee's twentieth anniversary and made a presentation entitled "Two decades of peacebuilding in Central Africa: the contribution of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa". The Centre also updated participants on disarmament developments in the subregion and on the cooperation between the United Nations system in Central Africa and the Committee in the context of peace and security. The Centre focused on promoting national implementation of relevant international and regional disarmament instruments and on identifying the challenges and opportunities for their implementation in the subregion. With a view to better understanding the challenges of illicit trafficking of small arms in a maritime context, which is a concern for Central African States, and building on a similar report prepared by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Centre prepared a detailed report covering the specific challenges States face in identifying and stopping arms trafficking and other smuggling networks that operate by sea.

10. The Centre provided substantive input to the African regional seminar on the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, hosted by the Government of Togo and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in May 2013. The Centre provided participating experts from Member States with information on the ratification and implementation of the Convention and the support they could receive from international partners, including the Regional Centre.

B. Small arms and light weapons

11. The Centre supported African Member States in implementing international and regional instruments to combat the illicit trade and the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons through assisting in the development of regional and national action plans on small arms; strengthening the capacities of Governments and civil society on small arms control; and identifying control challenges through baseline assessments.

12. As a member of the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Centre continued to assist the African Union in efforts to develop an African strategy and action plan for the control of small arms and light weapons. This was achieved by providing substantive advice to the Steering Committee and organizing debates on these issues. The African Union, at its summit

held in January 2013, encouraged States members of the Union to make use of the strategy and action plan.[1] The action plan aims at strengthening the capacity of African Union member States, regional economic communities and other regional institutions. Under the action plan, the members of the African Union will implement measures against the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and promote cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information on this issue. The Centre stands ready to support the African Union and its member States, as well as subregional organizations, in the implementation of the strategy and action plan, which constitute an effective framework to improve the coordination on small arms issues on the continent.

13. As a follow-up to its support to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the adoption of harmonized subregional agreements on the marking of small arms and light weapons, the Centre provided assistance to Togo in applying the standards and procedures established by the marking agreement adopted by ECOWAS in December 2011, which set new standards for the marking of small arms and light weapons in West Africa. The standards require States to ensure that classical and security markings are placed on each imported small arm and light weapon, on industrially produced small arms and light weapons, and to mark firearms produced by craft producers. With such standards, member States of ECOWAS will be in a position to identify the entity or individual responsible for the weapon, facilitate the tracing of small arms and light weapons and contribute to preventing diversions from Government stockpiles.

14. The Centre has been actively engaged in assisting the National Commission on Small Arms of Togo in the elaboration of a national plan of action on small arms for the period 2012-2016. The action plan was submitted to the Government in 2012 for review and is expected to be endorsed by Parliament in 2013. The Centre provided substantive and technical support to the National Commission on such priority items as capacity-building and the strengthening of policy, legislative and regulatory measures, including updated procedures and controls related to record-keeping, storage, exports, imports and transit. The plan of action is expected to lay the groundwork for the implementation of policies to combat the proliferation of small arms.

15. At the request of the Government of the Sudan, the Centre conducted a needs assessment mission and national consultations, with financial support from Australia, in December 2012. The Centre and the Government identified four priority areas for assistance: (a) reviewing and validating the draft national action plan on small arms control; (b) upgrading the database management system to register small arms; (c) supporting the implementation of the Khartoum Declaration on the control of small arms and light weapons across the neighbouring countries of Western Sudan; and (d) organizing public awareness campaigns. The Centre is developing a technical assistance programme in cooperation with the Government.

16. The Centre has also adapted and developed training modules on small arms for defence and security sector forces, national commissions on small arms and civil society. In response to a request from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, with funding from Australia and with the cooperation of the National Commission on

[1] Decision 472 (XX) of the Assembly of the African Union on the report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa (Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XX)).

Small Arms of Côte d'Ivoire, the Centre trained 23 members of security sector personnel on small arms and light weapons control issues in the context of border management. The training modules cover the following topics: human and community security; identifying small arms and light weapons, related ammunition, and explosives; normative controls on small arms and light weapons, including related to exports, imports, transit, borders, brokering, marking, record-keeping, criminal offences, seizures, civilian possession, and craft production; practical disarmament measures; stockpile management and destruction; the role of civil society in practical disarmament; and research techniques on small arms and light weapons. The Centre also facilitated a guided self-assessment of several arms and ammunition depots by the National Commission and provided support for the rehabilitation of four police stations. The Centre further conducted an assessment of the use and stockpiling of arms by the private security sector in the country. This substantive support to the National Commission of Côte d'Ivoire contributed to the improvement of the security environment in the country in support of efforts undertaken by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), particularly given the circulation of illegal arms following the post-electoral crisis that arose after November 2010.

17. In cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, the Centre commissioned a study to assess the nature and scope of small arms and light weapons trafficking within and among Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. The study determines the source of the illicit weapons and the types of illicit traffickers, identifies trafficking routes and provides an estimate of the flow of weapons. It also addresses methods to identify illicit arms caches and to assess the local or craft production of arms. The study recommends strengthening judicial, operational and technical capacities on small arms control issues, including stockpile safety and security, collection, seizure and destruction and border management and control. On the basis of the findings and the recommendations of the study, the Centre and the Foundation will develop programmes aimed at addressing some of the major problems related to the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

C. Other conventional arms issues

18. In order to facilitate the negotiation process of the Arms Trade Treaty, the Centre organized, together with the African Union and other partners, several events to facilitate a coordinated African approach to the treaty's negotiation.

19. Following the adoption of a common position on the Arms Trade Treaty by West African States (December 2010) and Central African States (March 2011) respectively, an African Union Common Position on an Arms Trade Treaty was adopted at the African Union Summit in January 2013. The Centre facilitated the development of the African common position on the treaty.

20. The Centre, in cooperation with the African Union and with financial support from Australia, provided substantive support to the Group of African States meeting prior to the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which was held in New York in July 2012. The meeting provided African delegations with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with key issues of the treaty and prepare for the substantive negotiations.

21. The Centre provided support to African States in preparation for the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held from 18 to 28 March 2013. In partnership with the African Union and civil society organizations, and with financial support from Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand, the Centre co-organized the "African seminar to prepare for the Final Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty" in Addis Ababa, in March 2013. Governmental experts from 43 African States attended the seminar and discussed key issues of the treaty, including the scope, transfer criteria and implementation of the treaty.

D. Weapons of mass destruction

22. The Centre supported Member States in their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Centre has developed a project to strengthen the capacities of African Member States in their implementation of the resolution, focusing on reporting obligations.

23. The Centre provided logistical support to the Department of Political Affairs in the organization of a subregional workshop entitled "Implementing United Nations sanctions measures: prospects and lessons learned", held in Togo in May 2013. The workshop drew experts from West African and Central African States.

E. Host country programme

24. In order to contribute to security sector reform in Togo, in particular from the perspective of the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials[2] and in keeping with the integrated technical guidance notes on security sector reform developed by the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, the Centre, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP and the International Committee of the Red Cross, with funding from the European Commission, conducted an evaluation of the capacity of police and gendarmerie training centres to train security sector forces for law enforcement during elections. The findings of the evaluation were integrated into training manuals and in two train-the-trainer programmes, which were conducted with Togolese police and gendarmerie, in September and November 2012, with a focus on international best practices in the area of law enforcement, crowd control and public order during elections. The training focused on the appropriate use of force and firearms to secure elections in a fragile context. As a result, some 7,000 police, gendarmes and other security sector personnel were trained by the Centre and, subsequently, by the Togolese security sector directly. The training also benefited Togolese gendarmerie and police units that will be deployed to peacekeeping missions. The training package can be adapted to situations in other African States that may need similar support for their security forces in upcoming elections.

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[2] See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.

F. Information and outreach

25. As part of Disarmament Week, in October 2012, the Centre hosted a cultural event in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations focusing on the theme of "Culture as a tool for peace and disarmament", which highlighted the work of the United Nations in disarmament and non-proliferation education. The Centre also briefed Togolese high school students in May 2013, in Lomé, prior to their participation in a Model United Nations competition at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

26. The Centre developed a new communications strategy aimed at improving its ability to inform and interact with Member States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations and the public at large regarding the Centre's work and priorities. Those efforts included redesigning its electronic newsletter "UNREC Focus" and improving its website (www.unrec.org). The number of subscribers to the newsletter has more than doubled and it now reaches more than 2,400 individuals and institutions in Africa and beyond. The Centre's website, with information available in English and French, has added new interactive features and information on the Centre's expertise and on current projects.

G. Cooperation and partnerships with Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other entities

27. Many African States have designated a focal point within Ministries of Foreign Affairs to interact with the Centre in order to enhance cooperation, including by facilitating the assistance provided by the Centre, in response to requests from States.

28. The Centre continued to provide substantive support to regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union-Regions Steering Committee, and to civil society organizations, on different aspects related to the control of small arms and light weapons. The Centre supported two meetings of the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in November 2012 and February 2013, on a coordinated approach to address the challenges posed by such weapons. The Centre continued its partnerships with the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, the Institute for Security Studies, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and the office of UNDP in Togo. The partnerships have served as frameworks for many of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

IV. Operational situation

A. Financial situation

29. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the Centre were received in the amount of $785,648. Information on the status of the trust fund for

the Centre from July 2012 to June 2013 is contained in the annex to the present report.

30. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Togo for their contributions and to the Government of Finland for supporting the cost of a United Nations Volunteer at the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General would also like to thank the European Union, the office of UNDP in Togo, the National Commission on Small Arms of Côte d'Ivoire, the International Action Network on Small Arms and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation for their collaboration with and support for the Centre's activities during the reporting period, including through in-kind contributions.

B. Staffing

31. A new Director (P-5) for the Centre was appointed in March 2013. Currently, the posts of the Director, one Political Affairs Officer and two support staff are funded from the regular budget of the United Nations.

32. In addition, funding from Finland has allowed for a security sector reform expert, as an international United Nations Volunteer, to work with the Centre for a two-year duration, as of May 2012. Projects and project staff are funded through voluntary contributions.

V. Conclusion

33. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to support Member States in disarmament, security and peace initiatives and collaborated with several partners. The Centre strengthened its role at the continental level, creating networks and partnerships at both the pan-African and the African subregional levels.

34. Furthermore, the Centre benefited from the synergies it has established with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the partnerships it has maintained with various non-governmental organizations and other institutions. This approach has helped in developing an extended network of expertise in the field of disarmament, peace and security. The ability of the Centre to coordinate with other institutions and to draw on lessons learned and best practices from the other regional centres in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific have proven to be salutary to its institutional growth. These trends will continue as part of the Centre's efforts to maximize the utilization of resources and expertise through cooperation and cross-fertilization of experiences.

35. Requests from Member States and intergovernmental organizations in Africa for technical cooperation, assistance and sharing of expertise have continued to increase and they need to be matched by adequate and sustainable funding. The Centre has developed a fundraising strategy and a portfolio of new project proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of its activities. The project proposals are based on the requests received for assistance and reflect the realities on the ground: addressing the challenges of implementing legal disarmament instruments and norms; building the capacities of law enforcement officers; strengthening civil society; harmonizing legislation and building the capacities of the legislative bodies;

reducing armed violence and collecting weapons in fragile societies. The Secretary-General wishes to encourage Member States and other donors to make financial contributions towards the continued operation of the Regional Centre.

Annex

Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2012

(In United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, as at 1 January 2012	150 970
Income	
Voluntary contributions	785 648[a]
Funds received under inter-organization arrangements	97 740[b]
Interest income	3 765
Other/miscellaneous income	27 610[c]
Total income	**914 763**
Expenditure	764 689
Programme support costs	94 212
Total expenditure	**858 901**
Reserves and fund balance, as at 31 December 2012	**206 832**[d]

[a] During the reporting period contributions totalling $785,648 were received from Australia ($754,608) and Togo ($31,040).

[b] Funds received from the United Nations Development Programme.

[c] Represents cancellations of obligations from the prior period ($24,432) and a related adjustment in programme support costs ($3,178).

[d] Consists of reserves and fund balance as at 1 January 2012, plus income received in 2012 less expenditures incurred during the year. During the period from 1 January to 31 May 2013 an additional contribution of $360,362 was received from: Australia ($50,000), Germany ($179,347), the Netherlands ($80,000), New Zealand ($19,975) and Togo ($31,040).